

General Certificate of Education
June 2006
Advanced Level Examination



HOME ECONOMICS

HEC5

Unit 5 The Consumer and Consumer Protection Task

Thursday 22 June 2006 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm (Session 1)
Friday 23 June 2006 9.00 am to 12.00 noon (Session 2)

For this paper you must have:

- a 12-page answer book
- your research material
- scissors, glue

You may use a calculator.

Time allowed: 6 hours in two 3-hour sessions

Instructions

- Attempt **one** task only.
- You may use the research material you have collected.
- You may **not** add to your research material after Session 1 has started.
- You may use all or part of Session 1 to order your research before you begin writing your response to the Task.
- You will not have access to your research material or answer book between Session 1 and Session 2.
- Your response, including any relevant research material, must be done in the 12-page answer book provided.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is HEC5.
- Use a blue or black ink (or ball-point) pen. Use pencil only for drawing.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want marked.
- If you need extra paper, use additional answer sheets.
- At the end of Session 2, hand in both your answer book and all your research material to the invigilator.

Attempt **one** task only, based on the topic you have researched.

Topic 1

Technology has had a major impact on our lives. It affects how we shop and how we manage our money, as well as influencing the type of food or textiles products we buy. Although enjoying the benefits of technology, consumers are also being encouraged to become 'responsible' and informed at a community level as well as at an individual level.

Research how technology influences the way we shop for food or textile products and what we shop for. Look at the ways it can help consumers to manage money. Investigate what is meant by being 'responsible' consumers and the reasons why consumers should be encouraged to become 'responsible' and informed.

Task 1

Using your research findings, write a report discussing the role technology plays in the life of a consumer who is managing money and shopping for either food or textiles products. Discuss how consumers could become more 'responsible' at both an individual and a community level.

In your conclusion, consider if it is possible to be 'responsible' consumers whilst embracing technology.

Topic 2

Since 1960 consumerism has grown at an ever-increasing rate with a corresponding growth in legislative measures and new protective (watchdog) bodies.

Research the reasons for the growth of consumer laws and protection since 1960. Consider what impact the European Union and the European Charter have had on this growth.

Task 2

Using your research findings, write a report which discusses the growth of consumer laws and 'watchdog bodies' since 1960.

Assess the influence the UK membership of the European Union and the European Charter have had on British consumers.

What further developments would you like to see to protect the consumer?

Topic 3

Successful consumers are those who manage resources effectively and efficiently. The resources that consumers have to use skilfully are money, energy and time, as their availability is limited.

Research how and why these particular resources need to be managed skilfully. Choose a named group of consumers and look at how they can optimise the use of these resources.

Task 3

Using your research findings, write a report which considers the reasons for the successful management of money, energy and time.

Detail the ways in which these resources can be used effectively by your chosen consumer group.

In your conclusion, state which resource you consider to be the most important to your chosen consumer group and how realistic it is to expect them to manage resources efficiently.

END OF TASKS

There are no tasks printed on this page